

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Personnel of Maryland

Leonard T. King, Sr., P.P.

Secretary

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November 11, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The need for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel to be able to quickly and efficiently communicate in times of crisis has never been greater.

On behalf of the President Terry E. Thompson of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and its 389 member organizations, representing over 35,000 volunteer emergency services personnel of Maryland, we're writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve the Consensus Plan to prevent radio interference to public safety communications systems. Our personnel are on the frontlines of fighting fires and ensuring the safety of Maryland citizens and emergency personnel everyday.

The FCC Chairman has said this is a top priority for the FCC. The FCC has committed to all emergency services personnel to address this serious topic, and as time passes, our danger from this problem continues to grow.

The Consensus Plan is the only proposal before the FCC that addresses this difficulty directly, and is the only proposition that has the support of America's leading public safety organizations, including:

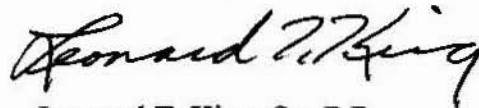
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
- The International Association of Fire Chiefs
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major City and County Sheriffs Associations

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Together with the private sector members of the Consensus Plan, more than 90 percent of affected licensees in the 800MHz band agree this is the finest way to work out this problem for public safety now. The Consensus Plan requires no Federal, State or local government public money and cost taxpayers nothing.

We cannot afford to wait any longer. Our officers, member organizations, and members hope the FCC will approve this plan soon, so we can get on with the process of re-banding and correcting this communications problem.

For the service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard T. King, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Leonard T. King, Sr., P.P.
Secretary

Cc: MD Senators
MD Representatives
FCC Commissioners